



NEWS RELEASE

**NELSON P. COHEN
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513-7567 • (907) 271-5071

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, July 23, 2008

08-96

MARIJUANA DEALER FORFEITS HOME & NETS 30 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, July 23, 2008, that Donald Keith Johnston, a resident of Sutton, Alaska, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 30 months in federal prison for his conviction of conspiring with others to distribute marijuana. Johnston was also ordered to forfeit his residence at 13600 North Glenn Highway, Sutton, Alaska.

United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess imposed the sentence on Johnston, age 46.

According to information presented to the court by the prosecutor, from January 2004 until March 2007, Johnston and other co-conspirators used snow machines in winter and concealed compartments in vehicles on the Alcan Highway in summer to smuggle more than 100 kilograms of processed “B.C. Bud” marijuana from British Columbia for distribution in Alaska. After the conspiracy was disrupted by law enforcement, Johnston grew marijuana at his Sutton residence, rendering the residence subject to forfeiture under federal law.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Burgess took into account the defendant’s prompt acceptance of responsibility for his role in the marijuana conspiracy.

Mr. Cohen commended the Alaska State Troopers Mat-Su Valley ABADE unit, the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Internal Revenue Service–Criminal Investigations, for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Johnston.

###